

NASA will drop objections to the Air Force's demand to have ten use-once-and-throw-away rockets to launch some of its secret satellites into orbit.

NBC Nightly News NBC-TV  
7:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 26

#### MX Missile Program

TOM BROKAW: Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger teamed up today to promote the MX missile. In a rare joint appearance before a Senate committee, they said we need 100 of the missiles as a vital step in negotiating arms control with the Soviets. Shultz said, "This is no time to cast doubt on our national resolve." End of quote

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT ABC-TV  
7:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 26

#### Joseph Mengele's Activities

PETER JENNINGS: According to CIA documents released today, Joseph Mengele, the Nazi war criminal who many people think is still alive, may have been at the center of a South America drug ring as recently as the 1970s. The documents were released at the request of two U.S. Senators.

And here's John Martin.

JOHN MARTIN: The two Senators, D'Amato of New York and Specter of Pennsylvania, displayed blowups of 11 documents released to them by the CIA. Despite line-by-line censors' markings, the documents show unverified reports

to the CIA suggesting Dr. Mengele turned to drug trafficking in the late 1960s in Paraguay. This after his family's manufacturing company allegedly stopped supporting him. The Senators said the CIA had failed to properly follow leads that might have led to his capture.

SEN. D'AMATO: I am convinced that there was absolutely little if any concern with respect to Mengele. Senator Specter is right.

SEN. SPECTER: It's an uncomfortable period in our history, where we have not acted. And nobody really gives a damn about Nazi war criminals.

REPORTER: But you're not suggesting that the United States Government protected Mengele.

SEN. SPECTER: I would respond to that by saying that the acts of omission constitute protection.

MARTIN: One unverified memo suggests Dr. Mengele roomed in 1968 with Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, long believed dead in Berlin. The same documents mentions Mengele receiving plastic surgery. Another document says Mengele assumed the name of Dr. Henrique Wollman. The Senators said Wollman owned a farm in Paraguay with a drug dealer.

The CIA said it didn't want to comment on charges that it had been lax. Two weeks ago it said the documents reflected little more than vague rumors.

The two Senators, meanwhile, say they are calling for the United States to capture Dr. Mengele, not because he is under indictment by any American court, but because, they said, they regard him as a fugitive from American custody.

Even with a modern air force, Nicaragua's 33-year-old Commander-in-Chief says he couldn't launch an invasion if he wanted.

JOAQUIN CUARDRA: It's a very significant fact that we have no [unintelligible] in the type of war that some officials of the United State Administration imagine that we want to do, is to go over with our army to Honduras, to other country, it is materially impossible.

MARTIN: This lone pier at Corinto is where all of Nicaragua's oil comes in. The navy patrols the waters offshore. But with only a few days of reserves, fuel remains the most vulnerable part of the Sandinista war machine.

Another reason the Sandinista Army is not going anywhere is that more than half its 50,000 men are already tied down in a guerrilla war against the Contras, who President Reagan calls freedom fighters. Although much of its equipment remains dilapidated, the army is throwing increasing firepower into the battle. These light Soviet tanks escort troop convoys. While more than 60 fire bases like this one use Soviet artillery pieces to pound Contra positions.

These will be the next weapons used against the Contras, Soviet-made Hind helicopter gunships, the first ones to be spotted in Nicaragua.

But mainly, it is a foot soldiers' war. These out-of-step recruits will receive just 42 days training before they are sent to the front. The Sandinistas are drafting 20,000 men a year, creating resentment among mothers whose sons are their sole means of support. Those who are not drafted wind up in the militia, perhaps 60,000 strong, 12- and 14-year-

old boys guarding bridges against Contra attacks, young women serving in village defense forces.

But boys and young women armed with AK-47s are not what worries the Reagan Administration. It worries about Soviet armor and helicopters and wonders where the buildup will end. The Nicaraguan commander has an answer.

CUARDRA: It's not an increase that has no end. We are almost to finish it.

MARTIN: But does that mean that you don't plan to get any more tanks?

CUARDRA: Not many more tanks.

MARTIN: If you have -- how many more? If you have 110 now, how many do you plan to have, all together?

CUARDRA: All together, we won't go over 150.

MARTIN: The Nicaraguan military appears to be approaching the limit of what it can absorb. It has enough to defend against roving bands of Contras, enough to erect obstacles against a conventional invasion, but, for the moment at least, not enough to pose a military threat to other Central American countries.

David Martin, CBS News, with the Nicaragua Army.

#### Air Force Shuttle Flights

RATHER: The nation's space agency and one of its most important cash-paying customers, the Air Force, today came to terms and ended their very public fight about the space shuttle. The Air Force today agreed to book a third of all future space shuttle flights at a special discount rate. The Air Force will also be able to get off the launch pad on the shuttle on demand in case of emergency.